

NORTHEAST

Individual Ideas From Evaluations

- Integration of Tech Degree courses into K-12 schools to give the individuals that do not want to go on to four year degree schools a jump start into tech fields which may help keep young people focused on education and enter workforce locally and stay in Wisconsin. Stop partisan bickering in our legislature and lead when the state needs leadership.
- Regional framework plans. State needs to articulate State-wide policies and programs for key state industries such as paper, medical, insurance, and agricultural. Use RPC's to deliver regional services/programs and to coordinate delivery of programs by counties. State does systematic economic based analysis by region on an annual basis. Link to "Smart Growth".
- Factors of success. Research on what employers are looking for.... (get the employers involved in this planning).
- Have the state coordinate more efforts to bring quality healthcare givers to rural communities – in light of the growing elderly population.
- Many of these topics are interrelated. There is a logical progression of implementation steps to accomplish positive results. What is required is leadership and fortitude.
- Tax credits to businesses that incur program fees for government guaranteed loan programs. Several states outside of Wisconsin have found such credits to be well received and support the use of these programs for business and economic development.
- I have a question? What happens to this information if the governor is not re-elected?
- Recognizing that elementary town governments politically may be unrealistic, perhaps a consolidation requirement might work, together with smart growth.
- Just to reiterate the importance of including a marketing plan as part of the State's business plan.
- Allow for condemnation to acquire property for industrial development purposes. We desperately need to develop a technology infrastructure improvement plan to serve all parts of the state.
- Bring CDBG back to local ED organizations from county. Make incentives based on jobs per capita rather than just jobs. More incentives to business upstarts in brownfields and aging buildings.
- State enforcing prevailing wage on such jobs – DWD realistically does not enforce nor monitor these projects, this will give the state economy a boost with the increase in wages to the construction workers on the project.
- In evaluating usefulness of government programs, including those promoting economic development, the relevant question is: Is the government able to provide the service at a lower cost than the private sector?
- Providing and supporting public transit to address energy issues and reduce highway and airport costs. Ease incorporation laws then ease annexation laws after a limited window for incorporation .
- Triangulation of information from state government, business and industries, education institutions.
- Affordable healthcare insurance for small business and self-employed.

- State needs to lead the reduction in local government. Too many units are trying to survive and expand. Force regional government with taxing and regulatory powers! Establish the office of the Ombudsman direct report to governor to facilitate economic development projects.
- If Wisconsin is to survive over the next fifty years with any meaningful growth and/or advancement, it needs to eliminate the “turf battles” and get to core issues.
- Take steps to stem foreign trade, we’re losing our manufacturing base to foreign countries. Implement an aggressive, “Buy USA campaign”. “Support USA”.
- Put all the information from all flip charts in a media where they can be accessed. Build a vision – define the steps and resources to get there – identify who doing this – implement the plan. Why were there so few people from the private sector? Why were there no eighteen year olds? Would we benefit from more diversity attendance in the future? Was labor adequately represented? Do we have the stomach for constructive criticism and debate?
- Provide an explanation of who will be there and why in these “Build Wisconsin” sessions. Tell us what the governor’s office is committing to: 1st priority topic, 2nd, etc.
- Dissemination of UW Research out of the I-94 corridor.
- Our group said it would like to have Todd Berry of WTA speak on tax, government & ED relationship at a regional forum.
- Create a mission/vision and announce strategic planning process using a group of this nature for each region that is a cross section of people: Health care, Education, Economic Workforce Development , etc.
- University system needs to have a mission to serve the regions in which each university is located – research being done in Madison @ UW needs to be decentralized on a strategic basis to help the regions benefit, like the City of Madison benefits from UW. DNR regulatory/licensing procedures need to be completely revamped to match the speed of European countries.
- Raising tuition costs at the UW and Tech Colleges will defeat the goal: You need an “educated population”, not just “trained workers”. The people of the state as a whole define who we are and where we are going.
- If this NE region is to be successful, we need to develop a vision/mission/objectives as a region, that we can all buy in and strive to accomplish. This is a critical first step.
- Living wages – Promote better wages to be paid by employers to make it, so less workers are dependent on the government to supplement wage shortfalls. Healthcare – something needs to be done to ensure all people have access to healthcare.
- More worker involvement at all levels. Higher wages/benefits for workers. Making accommodations for the diverse workforce (English taught on the job – how to become citizens). Tell the real story on our taxes – we have great roads, our services to the taxpayer is good – high quality work by public employees, good schools, garbage pickup, etc, etc. We get our bucks worth!